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# As of Now

Mrs H C. Breckenridge

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## As of Now

As the Golden Anniversary is observed, the best way to depict the maturity of the Iowa Congress is to point to its growth. Present membership is 92,670 members in 668 local units.

"Leadership" has been the watchword of the present administration. Efforts have been made to develop in local units, councils, districts, and in the entire state an interested, informed, and capable type of leader. To accomplish this, the "three-year plan" was put in operation. Leadership was needed, for instance, in the area of Home and Family Life. The president, Mrs. H. C. Breckenridge, and the chairman of the Home Service Department, Mrs. O. S. Fatland, were sent to the National Conference on Home and Family Life called by the President of the United States, in March, 1948. The Iowa Congress then reproduced a State Family Life Conference attended by 250 delegates at Des Moines, in January, 1949.

At the same time, another type of leadership training was being inaugurated — the recruitment of teachers. Realizing the need for more young people to enter the teaching profession, the State Board voted to set up a Student Loan Fund, available only to those applicants who were entering



the teaching profession. This fund, totaling over \$3,700 today, has been amassed through the sale of State Life Memberships, Distinguished Service Scrolls, and "In Memoriam" cards. Three loans have already been made from this fund, and a number of applications are on file.

Other forms of leadership training such as schools of instruction for district and council officers have been set up. Throughout the summer months information meetings have been held and district presidents given the opportunity of attending special two-day conferences. The outstanding endeavor in this field was the week-long Parent Education Workshop held at the State University of Iowa during the summer of 1950.

For twelve years college cooperation has been the means of bringing the philosophy of the Parent-Teacher Congress to the attention of administrators, teachers, and education students. This program has been expanded from summer participation at the three state schools, at Drake University, and at Morningside College, to twenty other Iowa schools where the story of PTA has been told to more than 5,000 future teachers.

The Mid-Century White House Conference has held a major place in the thought of many members, especially those serving on county, state, and national committees. The needs of Iowa children stand uppermost in these deliberations.

MRS. H. C. BRECKENRIDGE